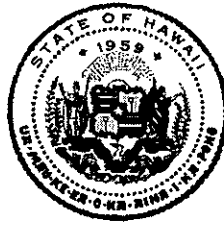


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Blvd. 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
DIRECTOR

MARTHA TORNEY
Deputy Director of
Administration

JOE W. BOOKER, JR.
Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2261
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
by
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

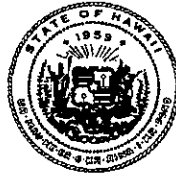
Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 309

Chairs Aquino, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill 2261 that would establish the "Weed and Seed Program" under the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. PSD's Law Enforcement Division is presently participating in the "Weed and Seed Program" and is currently working in the Mayor Wright Housing complex. PSD's Law Enforcement Division is assisting the Honolulu Police Department in conducting random patrols in the Mayor Wright Housing complex with the goal of decreasing criminal activity in the area. The Department feels that this program has merit and a successful track record of improving communities where they are situated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA MCMANAMAN
DIRECTOR
BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 15, 2012

TO: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

Subject: **S.B. 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 2261 is to establish a weed and seed program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and provide an unspecified appropriation for the program.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of S.B. 2261 to help with a comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention and community revitalization.

The existing Weed and Seed Honolulu program is currently under the umbrella of the YMCA. The Weed and Seed is involved with community revitalization in Waipahu, Ewa Beach and Kalihi-Palama. At the request of the Governor's Office, the Weed and Seed was asked to rejuvenate its program at the Mayor Wright Homes (MWH). The DHS coordinated with Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), Department of Public Safety, U.S. Housing

and Urban Development, and U.S. Attorney's Office, and Weed and Seed to facilitate the return of the Weed and Seed to MWH. As a result of the coordinated effort and collaboration among these agencies, a one year Memorandum of Understanding was agreed upon by the parties to have the Weed and Seed assist HPHA in improving the security and safety environment at MWH and to help provide social programs that benefits the residents of MWH.

The Weed and Seed has a track record of success in all the communities that it has been involved with. The DHS supports its continued existence, the intent of this measure, but takes no position as to where Weed and Seed should be housed and defers to the earlier testimony each submitted by the Office of Community Service and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. It is our understanding that the Honolulu Weed and Seed has submitted a Grants-in-Aid application for the upcoming fiscal year. We leave it to the Committee's judgment as to whether this will be the more appropriate vehicle to accomplish the purpose of the bill, namely the continued support for the existence of the Honolulu Weed and Seed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

March 15, 2012

To: To: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair, Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair,
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Dwight Y. Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. No. 2261 Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB2261 creates a Weed and Seed program in the Office of Community Services (OCS), which is attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for administrative purposes. The measure appropriates funds and requires a report to the legislature from the department.

DLIR opposes creating a new program within the department under OCS. However, the department does support OCS administering a chapter 42F Grant-in-Aid for the program, as they have for a number of years. The department suggests that any appropriation in the proposal should also cover the administrative costs. Lastly, the DLIR's support of the proposal is contingent upon its passage not displacing the funding priorities of the administration.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, OCS administers the Weed and Seed Program as a Grant-in-Aid pursuant to chapter 42F. A permanent program does not exist.

III. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

DLIR supports and shares OCS's concerns with the measure as currently drafted. The reduction of crime and drug use is both outside the scope of OCS and the prevention of crime is outside the mission of DLIR. The measure as currently worded would task OCS with providing direct services, which would require significantly more resources including staff. The department notes that under HRS Chapter 371K, OCS's mission is to contract out services to other entities to provide services and then provide administrative support and oversight.

In addition, the proposal establishes a new program within DLIR to maintain and expand the current program, which the department opposes. OCS has administered a chapter 42F Grant-in-Aid for the Weed and Seed Program for a number of years. The department notes that the budget for OCS at both the state and federal levels has decreased over the last few budget cycles.

In sum, the department is supportive of OCS administering a Grant-In-Aid for the Weed and Seed program as long as the proposal's passage does not displace the funding priorities of the administration.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685
Email: dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov

March 13, 2012

To: The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Mila Kaahanui, MSW
Executive Director
Office of Community Services (OCS)

Testimony for Senate Bill 2261-Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

POSITION: Support w/Comments

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The current proposal, SB 2261, would create a Weed and Seed program in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) as well as create a new requirement for a report to the Legislature to be submitted by the Department. The bill would also appropriate funds for the measure.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, OCS administers the Weed and Seed Program as a Grant-in-Aid pursuant to Chapter 42F.

III. SENATE BILL

OCS has, in previous testimony, iterated our support of the program in general terms. We continue to support measures like the current proposal as the Weed and Seed program has shown the ability to organize and coordinate diverse sectors of the community.

With regard to this specific proposed legislation, we believe the House Bill has a better grasp of the issues inherent in administering any new program. For example, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is mentioned as the implementing agency for the program. The Weed and Seed program would, most likely, fall outside the mission of the Department as stated in HRS, Chapter 26-20.

As stated when testifying on the House measure, certain implementation issues need to be addressed, such as funding source, codification, funding amount, statewide implementation, procurement, and other such details. None of these issues will hinder the implementation of the program, should the Legislature wish to fund it, however the program will be affected by each decision made. OCS is prepared to discuss any such program format with the committee chairs to ensure everyone is informed as to the repercussions of any legislative preferences.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIPAHU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
94-465 Waipahu Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

I am appealing for your support SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has helped to reduce violent crimes and drug-related crimes in my community.

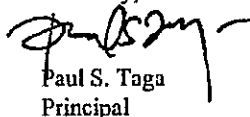
Waipahu Elementary School's support for Weed & Seed Waipahu is a direct result of the valuable service every member of the organization provides to not only our school, but also the entire Waipahu community. Weed & Seed Waipahu and the YMCA of Honolulu have partnered with our school in a variety of ways to support our students and families. The police officers and site coordinator assist us with our Drug Free parade through the community, they have done presentations to parents and families, and have also contributed to prevention efforts by mentoring our 6th grade students in rap sessions.

Beyond those significant efforts developed through our school partnership, I personally support and believe in the direction and goals of the Weed & Seed program. Coordination of efforts and leveraging of resources has allowed progress to occur in shaping a prideful and more resourceful Waipahu community. Because of that, I do participate in and support Weed & Seed activities whenever possible, even if these events are not school related.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,


Paul S. Taga
Principal

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Ewa Makai Middle School
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

I am appealing for your support SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has helped to reduce violent crimes and drug-related crimes in my community.

The Weed and Seed officers are looked upon as not only policeman but as active participants and leaders in our school setting. They have done presentations to our students about--bicycle and pedestrian safety, careers in law enforcement, and drug and alcohol awareness. They have also interacted with our students as referees in football, basketball and other sports. They have assisted us in mass evacuation and other safety drills too.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Oshiro".

Ed Oshiro

Principal of Ewa Makai Middle School

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

- I am an avid supporter of Weed and Seed, because I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities. They have realized that crime prevention must start at a younger age and they work with elementary, intermediate and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse, truancy and gang involvement. They've organized graffiti paint outs and participated in beautification projects. They've assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly. They've partnered with "Gear Up Waipahu" and New Hope Leeward to create the FRESH START program which targets Waipahu High School 9th grade students who are on the verge of failing or who are repeating the 9th grade.
- They work with the 6th graders at Waipahu Elementary for their "Real and Powerful Sessions" educating the students about juvenile laws, substance abuse and illicit activity and help to empower the students to make safer choices as they age.
- They will also be instrumental in be hosting the first meeting in Waipahu to discuss how the community can support the state and federal government concerning prison re-entry into the community.
- They are an integral part of the Waipahu Community Coalition and help to provide safe, healthy, drug-free activities for the residents of Waipahu. It is a pleasure working with such dedicated professionals to improve Waipahu and I look forward to working with them in future projects.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,

Kelli L. Buenconsejo, RN PHN
State of Hawaii
Department of Health
Public Health Nursing Branch
Leeward Oahu Nursing Office
94-275 Mokuola Street Rm 101
Waipahu, HI 9679

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

I am a supporter of Weed and Seed because I have seen the improvement in our community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities. They have realized that crime prevention must start at a younger age and they work with elementary, intermediate, and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse, truancy, and gang involvement. They have organized graffiti paint outs and participated in beautification projects. They have assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly. They have partnered with "GEAR Up Waipahu" and New Hope Leeward to create the FRESH START program which targets (current) Waipahu High School 10th grade students who are on the verge of failing or who are repeating the 9th grade.

They work with 6th graders at Waipahu Elementary for their "Real and Powerful Sessions" educating the students about juvenile laws, substance abuse and illicit activity and help to empower the students to make safer choices as they age.

They will also be instrumental in hosting the first meeting in Waipahu to discuss how the community can support the state and federal government concerning prison re-entry into the community.

They are an integral part of the Waipahu Community Coalition and help to provide safe, healthy and drug free activities for the residents of Waipahu. It is a pleasure working with such dedicated professionals and I look forward to working with them in future projects.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,



Gail Kim, RN
State of Hawaii
Department of Health
Public Health Nursing
Leeward Oahu PHN Section
94-275 Mokuola St. Rm. 101
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

I am a Department of Health Public Health Nurse and a member of the Waipahu Community Coalition. I am an avid supporter of Weed and Seed because I have seen their diligent efforts to improve the Waipahu community. The Weed and Seed officers and site coordinator work actively with elementary, intermediate and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse, truancy and gang involvement. They have assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly. Weed and Seed also organized graffiti paint outs and participated in beautification projects. They are an integral part of the Waipahu Community Coalition and help to provide safe, healthy and drug free activities for the residents of Waipahu. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated Weed and Seed team. I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,

Jan Nishihira, RN
State of Hawaii
Department of Health
Public Health Nursing
Leeward Oahu PHN Section
94-275 Mokuola St. Rm. 101
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

March 13, 2012

The Honorable Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of each Committee

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

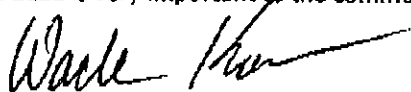
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Working in public housing in the Kamehameha Homes and Kaahumanu Homes communities, I have seen the impact of the Weed & Seed program to reduce and prevent crime. Through its support of the tenant associations and the prevention activities that they conduct throughout the year; through graffiti removal and area beautification and through the establishment of Citizen's Patrols and regular communication and contact with district HPD officers; Weed & Seed has proven itself to be an integral part of the community and surrounding neighborhood.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261.

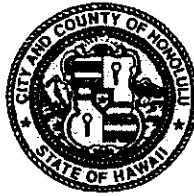
Sincerely,



Wade Kau
BMW Supervisor II
Kamehameha Homes
State of Hawaii
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. MCCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE WC-WC

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads and Members:

Re: Senate Bill No. 2261, Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

I am Major William Chur of District 5 (Kalihi) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2261. This bill establishes and appropriates a Weed and Seed program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

As a partner in the Weed and Seed program since its inception several years ago, the HPD recognizes the benefits of the program in reducing crime and improving the quality of life for people who live and work in the Weed and Seed designated communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

William R Chur
WILLIAM R. CHUR, Major

APPROVED:

Louis M Kealo
LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

Rep Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Rep Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: Thursday March 15, 2012

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Room 309, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

RE: SB2261 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

My name is Maile Kanemaru, Director of Honolulu Weed and Seed, and now retired from the YMCA of Honolulu. I have been the Director of Weed and Seed for the past 12 years.

I am in strong support of SB2261

Weed and Seed is a program sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii, in partnership with the YMCA of Honolulu.

Weed and Seed on a National level was a victim of budget cuts when the Department of Justice decided to cut grant programs. Weed and Seed was one the oldest, being around since the Bush I administration. In Hawaii, we received the permission from the DOJ to continue with the program, including using the name and logo, recognizing that W&S in Hawaii is robust and supported by the community.

Since it is no longer a program from the Dept of Justice, there are no restrictions, such as three sites per county. Therefore, we have received numerous requests from communities across the state asking for assistance. They would like to learn the strategies that Weed and Seed has demonstrated to be successful.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the designated neighborhoods. It is a program doing substantial good in our communities to improve the quality of life.

The State has benefited greatly from the Weed and Seed Program and that is based on the two-pronged approach of "weeding out" criminal activity and introducing "seeding" activities and programs ensuring long-term positive changes and a better quality of life for stakeholders.

Since there are no longer funds available for Weed and Seed from the Department of Justice, we are depending on local government and private donations to continue the program. The current funds end in October of 2012.

We have been asked by the Administration to focus on Mayor Wright Homes to address some of the recent incidents which jeopardizes safe and decent housing for our families in Public Housing. We will need the support of the Legislature to do this.

The purpose of the Act is to appropriate funds for a grant-in-aid to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) to support the operations of the Weed and Seed Program through the Department of Labor, Office of Community Services.

The YMCA of Honolulu has been the fiscal agent and employer of the Weed and Seed staff for twelve years.

After speaking with staff from the Department of Labor, Office of Community Services, as well as staff from the Attorney General's office, the alternative grant-in-aid, is preferable to establishing Weed and Seed as a program within the Dept of Labor.

The Office of Community Service has in the past, been a Program Manager of funds for Weed and Seed. Most of the residents served are from low to moderate income households and many are from immigrant families.

Thank you for your consideration.

March 14, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
 The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
 The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of PBM
 The Honorable Rep., Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
 & Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
 State Capitol
 Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Rhoades, Vice Chair Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the Committee

RE: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
 Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00 am in Conference Room 309

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit Organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Through the years Weed and Seed has been very instrumental to the Ewa Beach community, its youth family and businesses. My years of involvement with the Weed and Seed's initiative, I've witness the changes within our community; as less crime, and truancy dwindles each year, graffiti has been less few and the community has been safer for our youth, family and business.

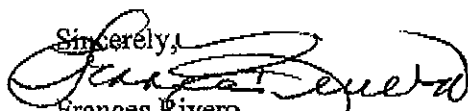
Their involvement with various programs and projects should be recognized as one of the leading programs in the state. Officer's involvement with youth in the capacity of mentoring, being positive role models for youth that provides various programs within the school system and community as intramurals, culinary arts Jr. bowling, Jr. Golf, Health to Ocean (H2)) programs, that gives youth an alternative to positive programs than the streets. In support of community involvement and partnership, the citizen patrol program with both youth and adults have been on - going for over six years, graffiti paint outs to help beautify our community, and various community projects that secures and reinforces safety concerns and issues community may have.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. It is with great importance they continue the efforts in keeping our community safe and our youth out of harm's way.

Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and Partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB2261.

Sincerely,


 Frances Rivero
 Director- Hale Pono Clubhouse

Great Futures Starts Here.



Friends for Boys & Girls Club
 Hale Pono Ewa Beach
 Clubhouse
 91-884 Fort Weaver Rd. Suite A
 Ewa Beach HI 96706
 Tel: 808.689.4182
 Fax: 808.689.0625
www.bgch.com

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Frances Rivero

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Tim Motts



March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

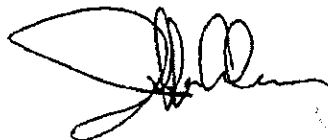
I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses have helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Empower Oahu has worked with Weed and Seed in each of the project communities through its Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Strengthening Programs. In addition, it plays an integral role in meeting the social and economic objectives outlined in each community's Neighborhood Plan.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource whose strategy needs to be continued. Your support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community, I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Alameida, CFP
Executive Director
Empower Oahu

**MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.**

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
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Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

I am appealing for your support SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Over the past eleven years of managing the Waipahu Town Center, I have seen and experienced much improvement in our Waipahu community as a result of the direct involvement and tireless hours that the Weed and Seed officers have devoted into educating and mentoring our keiki, young adults and parents to seek the right choices in creating better lives for themselves. The Waipahu community will always need the assistance of outreach programs however, Weed and Seed has proven to be a success on its own coat tails amongst the residents and businesses.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN PACIFIC,

Agent for Waipahu, LLC


Carol Y. Brack
Executive Vice President

MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.
1801 Tiburon Boulevard, Suite 800
Tiburon, CA 94920
415/789-5530 FAX: 415/789-5564

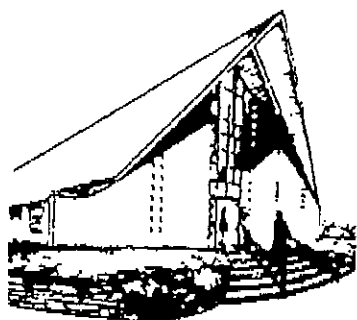
MERIDIAN PACIFIC
94-050 Farrington Highway, Suite E1-3
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
808/677-5700 FAX: 808/671-2427

www.meridianpacificld.com

REAL ESTATE

Lenders
Mortgage Bankers
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Principals/Developers
Investment Bankers
Asset Managers



Kalihi Baptist Church

1888 Owawa Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-4255
Telephone and Fax: (808) 845-4584

John Vaughn, Pastor

March 13, 2012

The Honorable Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of each Committee

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Weed & Seed has been particularly effective in the area of Kalihi Valley Homes, and the surrounding Kam IV Rd. area. The work done within the Weed & Seed strategy has given us ways to work together to make our community safer. Church members feel encouraged and supported to give a little extra time and effort to our neighborhood. We remove graffiti and pick up trash on a regular basis whenever we can. Through Weed & Seed we have learned not to wait around or expect others (like government) to do what we can very easily do for ourselves.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,

Pastor John Vaughn

**HAWAII'S
MOST WANTED****Hawaii's Most Wanted Magazine**

March 13, 2012

The Honorable Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of each Committee

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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Hawaii's Most Wanted Magazine support Weed & Seed by providing space in its publications free-of-charge. Projects carried out by the community collaborative partners throughout the Weed & Seed sites are models of crime prevention and reduction successes that can be modeled throughout our State.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Castillo-Barkley
Owner

P.O. Box 38017 • Honolulu, HI 96837 • (808) 585-6231 • <http://hawaiiismostwanted.com>

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
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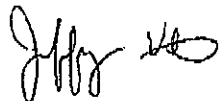
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

The Weed & Seed program has really helped the Waipahu community in its efforts to clean up the city and install pride in Waipahu. You can see community residents, business leaders, and people from the churches and schools in Waipahu come together in support of this program. Events such as town hall meetings, graffiti paint-outs, bike path clean-up, Waipahu beautification day, Waipahu cane haul run, and 3-on-3 basketball tournaments have all been organized and implemented to bring the community together and keep our children active in positive ways to prevent drugs and crime.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Ventura
Vice President & Area Manager
First Hawaiian Bank Waipahu Branch
808-671-3978



HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

March 14, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

I am appealing for your support SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has helped to reduce violent crimes and drug-related crimes in my community.

The Weed and Seed Strategy has been and continues to be a major factor in improving the health and safety of my community. The truancy rate at area schools has fallen significantly since Weed & Seed came to 'Ewa Beach. Officers, residents and students walk neighborhood streets regularly as part of citizen patrols. In addition, Weed and Seed organizes volunteers to paint out graffiti and clean up parks, and provides valuable life skills and job training via "seeding" efforts such as the summer culinary arts program. By having the Weed & Seed police officers working hand in hand with residents, students, and businesses, fear is replaced by respect – and residents are inspired to work together to keep our community clean and safe.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727. Thank you for your support and consideration

Sincerely,

Sharene Saito Tam
Vice President
Haseko Development, Inc.

PBMtestimony

From: Eric Wong [ewong@mutual-housing.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:11 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT SB 2261 SSCR 2727 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of
LAB & Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB State Capitol Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

March 14, 2012

Joint Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00am in Conference Room 309

Aloha Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita and Members of the
Committees:

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in
Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations,
community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related
crimes.

On behalf of the Kekaulike Courtyards residents here in Chinatown, we are part of an active
Citizen Patrol unit under the Honolulu Police Department supported by assigned Weed and Seed,
Community Policing police officers. We believe this working relationship as their 'eyes and
ears' for and with the police department creates a safer community for those working and
living in Chinatown.

I hope you will agree that Weed and Seed is a critical community resource and organizational
tool that needs to be continued. Your support of this critical program ensures our community
partners continue building a strong network of committed citizens earnestly preventing crime.
Weed and Seed is critical in our community thus I humbly urge that you support SB 2261 SSCR
2727; we cannot afford to let crime takes its place in our communities.

Sincerely,

Eric Wong | Property Manager | Kekaulike Courtyards | (808)-545-2993

March 13, 2012

The Honorable Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of each Committee

Re: SB 2261 SSCR 2727 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

As a resident of Kaahumanu Homes I see Weed & Seed working in our community and makes a difference. Weed & Seed helped us with our Christmas Celebration that we could give our kids goody bags and a nice time. The Kaahumanu Homes Citizen's Patrol walks every week to make our place safe. On behalf of our board, we want Weed & Seed to stay.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,



Rose Ayala-Switzer
Resident
Tenant Association President
Kaahumanu Homes

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

I had the good fortune of being the first Weed and Seed Supervisor in Hawaii and the City of Honolulu. I've seen the good work it has done and how businesses and residents have come together to make the communities safe to live in.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,



John Kauwenaole, Sergeant Retired
Honolulu Police Department

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Kari Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
& Members of the House Committees on PBM and LAB
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I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 SSCR 2727 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Barbara Tom. I recently retired from the DOH as a Public Health Nurse but continue to work closely with the Waipahu Community Coalition which I chaired for a number of years. The Coalition's main mission is to develop a safe and healthy community for Waipahu. **The Weed and Seed Program has been an active and key partner with the Coalition in collaborating with residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses to help us focus on crime reduction and drug prevention.**

For example, one of the preventative activities that Weed and Seed leads in our community is the RAP Program provided to Waipahu and Honowai Elementary School students. RAP stands for Real and Powerful sessions. Weed & Seed conducts weekly sessions with the students on making appropriate and informed decisions on drugs, internet safety, school attendance, and bullying.

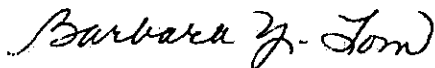
Another program offered by Weed & Seed in Waipahu is Fresh Start which in partnership with Waipahu High School and Gear Up, targets youth that are on track for failure. Weed and Seed conducts workshops and supports educational excursions that teach students and parents skills in communication, problem solving and decision making. The goal is to give these students a much needed "fresh start".

In addition to these programs, they help us organize many drug free activities for our community such as our annual Waipahu 5K Cane Haul Run/Walk, Taste of Waipahu, Historical Tour of Waipahu, Waipahu Christmas Parade and Carnival, Christmas Adopt-A-Family, etc. To eradicate the ever growing problem of neighborhood blight, Weed and Seed organizes graffiti paint outs and community clean ups. In addition, they have even been involved with a community group of Micronesian women in Pupuole and have shared information on domestic violence and other safety issues. As a Public Health Nurse, I know that prevention is often times a much more cost effective intervention than paying for drug treatment and incarceration.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,



Barbara Tom, Retiree and Citizen
98-1854 Mikiolia Place
Aiea, HI 96701

March 12, 2012

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The Honorable Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair of PBM
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair of LAB
The Honorable Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair of LAB
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I live in Waianae and I have managed the ‘Olelo Waipahu Community Media Center for 5+ years developing Community Media Access with schools and organizations in Waipahu, I am a member of the Waipahu Community Coalition, and prior to that helped develop the ‘Olelo Waianae Community Media Center for 5 years. I have witnessed HPDs community efforts as enforcement having success when they arrive for a crisis. However the Weed & Seed Officers have created a unique presence in the community and developed a deep relationship with organizations, youth, families and businesses. The Weed & Seed Officers and program have created a sense of security that stems from being present, involved and caring for the people & community they serve. The Weed & Seed Officers are very different from regular HPD Officers. The Weed & Seed Officers have created a relationship that starts with very young youth that help develop a level of respect for authority, law and order. Their presence imbedded into the fabric of Waipahu changes the dynamics and behavior of the community for the positive. They make a difference. They have a positive impact. They make it safe for all to thrive and succeed. Please support Weed & Seed.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 SSCR 2727.

Sincerely,

James “Sparky” Rodrigues
94-455 Farrington Hwy.
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
808-671-3950 office
808-352-0059 cel